


the inside scoop

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Mission status	
(As of May 31)	
Days ahead(+) or behind(-)	
	+ 0.6
	+ 0.6
	+ 0.42
Fiscal Year 2000 statistics	
--Sorties flown: 43,824	
--Hours flown: 65,035.7	
--Pilot wings earned in FY 00: 209	
--Wings earned since 1963: 11,574	

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Photo by Charlie Perez

Enrique Rodriquez, 12th Flying Training Wing aircraft maintenance, direct's Randolph's first operational T-6A Texan II into position during an arrival ceremony at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, Tuesday.

The Air Force will receive 372 T-6s and the Navy will get 339. An additional 29 new trainers will be used in the joint Air Force and Navy undergraduate navigator training program.

Air Force's first T-6A Texan II lands

New trainer changes face of joint specialized undergraduate pilot

by **Sammonson**
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) – Joint specialized undergraduate pilot training took on a new look here May 23 as the Air Force received the first operational T-6A Texan II.

The T-6A is a joint-service primary pilot training aircraft that will replace the Air Force and Navy's aging fleets of primary trainers. Produced by Raytheon Aircraft Company, the T-6A will be used to train entry-level Air Force and Navy aviation students.

Randolph's 559th Flying Training Squadron is the first operational unit to fly the T-6A.

Laughlin is expected to get its first trainer June 2002, according to officials. Sheppard AFB, Texas; Vance AFB, Okla.; and Columbus AFB, Miss., are also scheduled to transition to the T-6A for primary training.

"The T-6A is the trainer of the 21st Century," said Gen. Lloyd "Fig" Newton, commander of Air Education and Training Command, at the arrival ceremony. "The Navy and Air Force will once again fly a common aircraft with a common training system."

The Air Force and Navy transition to the T-6A is expected to take approximately 10 years. The Air Force will steadily replace T-37s with T-6s at all Air Education and Training Command joint specialized undergraduate

pilot training bases.

Newton said he expects the T-6A to provide the Air Force and Navy with the same faithful service as the current training workhorses – the T-37 Tweet and T-34 Turbomenter. He lauded the T-6A's high power-to-weight ratio, its modern cockpit, zero-zero ejection seat, ease of maintenance and low operating cost.

"The T-6A will provide America with the best primary pilot training system in the world," said Newton.

The chief of Naval Air Training, Rear Admiral Mike Bucchi, also participated in the

See 'T-6,' Page 5

Savings bonds

Campaign offers members chance to invest in future

The past decade has seen broad changes in the way Americans look at putting aside money for the future. In many ways, the focus has turned on long-term saving and investing. However, people should always consider the basics of saving to help them meet today's obligations as well as add to the long-term investments for education and retirement, according to 2nd

Lt. Steve Ortman, base savings bond representative.

Throughout June, Laughlin Air Force Base holds its annual savings bond campaign, and unit savings bond representatives are available to answer questions and help people determine how savings bonds can improve their financial outlook.

For nearly 60 years, savings bonds have served as the ve-

hicle for beginning a habit of saving and investing, but according to Ortman, the shift from pension plans and savings accounts to stock options and IRAs, coupled with the high-flying stock market, have altered how people approach saving and spending. Lost, or at least devalued, in the new focus on stocks and

See 'Bonds,' Page 6



Photo by Master Sgt. Tom Hankus

Col. Winfield W. "Skip" Scott III, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, takes a moment to sign for U.S. Savings Bonds as 2nd Lt Steve Ortman, project officer, guides him through the process.

Commander Or Learning risks can n ensure child safety e r

By Col. Joan Griffith

47th Medical Group Commander

June is designated National Safety Month with special emphasis on child health and safety, and even though we recently held a Wing Safety Day, it is vital people continue remaining safety conscious.

Webster defines safety as a state of being free from harm, danger, injury or evil. As parents or caregivers, we have a never-ending responsibility to protect our children from harm.

Each year, approximately 30 million children experience countless accidental injuries. About 13 million required medical attention, and 85 percent were found without identification, which made it difficult to notify parents.

The task of being a parent is daunting. With a baby or child in your family, there is nothing more important than safety. Whether you're a parent or a child caregiver, there are steps you can take to keep infants and children safe. Some safety rules to follow are:

- Use safe playgrounds.
- Use gates on stairs.
- Always supervise children in or near water.
- Buckle up.
- Never keep guns in any child care setting.
- Call the poison control center if you think a child has been poisoned.
- Post emergency numbers next to home telephones.
- Take an American Red Cross course in first aid and infant/child CPR.

According to the Prevent Blindness of America Organization, thousands of eye accidents happen each day. Ninety percent of these accidents are preventable with the use of appropriate safety eyewear. Things to check for in safety wear include:

- Are the lenses made from polycarbonate?
- Do they cover enough of the eye to provide appropriate protection?
- Are they approved? Most sports have an organization that sets safety standards for equipment. Check with the appropriate organization for particular sports.

As summer approaches, families will plan well-deserved vacations, including extra fun in the sun. However, procedures should be followed to avoid having a heat-related illness ruin your day. Always drink plenty of water and take frequent breaks when working or playing in the hot weather. If you are with someone who begins to suffer from a heat-related illness, follow these steps:

- Get the victim out of the heat
 - Loosen tight clothing and remove clothing that is soaked with perspiration
 - Fan the victim
 - Apply cool, wet clothes to the skin
 - If the person is fully awake and alert, have the victim drink small amounts of cool water
 - Call 911 if the person starts to lose consciousness
- Perhaps the most alarming data is the fact that despite improved car safety devices, motor vehicles accidents are the leading cause of death for children ages 6-14.

In 1996, these accidents killed 3,289 children less than 16 years old and 413,000 more children were hurt. Most accidents occurred within 25 miles of home, on roads with posted speed limits of 40 miles per hour or less. Impatient, frustrated drivers caused many of these accidents. According to Leon James, a traffic psychologist at the University of Hawaii, the general erosion of courteous driving is increasing the frequency of accidents. "Aggressive driving is becoming one of the most serious problems for safety officials." An aggressive driver is one who speeds, tailgates, cuts in front of other drivers, weaves, takes stop signs as suggestions rather than law and who sometimes will block another driver's progress through traffic. Are you an aggressive driver? Is your driving putting your child or other people's children at risk?

Ensuring the health and safety of our children begins when we "child proof" our homes, but we should also extend beyond those boundaries. If we practice safety each day in all aspects of our lives we will be well on our way to providing children an environment that is truly free of harm, danger, injury or evil.

The other side: retiree compares civilian benefits

By Phil Penrod

Retired chief master sergeant

I wanted to let you know that I have officially retired from Air Force life and the first four months of retired life were some of the most difficult times I ever experienced.

It was not as easy as I thought it would be. However, being the general manager for a large distribution center of three furniture companies is a challenge that keeps me very busy. It was a mess when I started, but now things are turning around and looking pretty good. My boss, the chief executive officer and owner of all three companies, is very pleased and even put another section under me recently.

I have instilled a lot of the values of the Air Force into the people that work for me now. I'd say the single most important thing I did to win them over was to show them I was a completely honest individual, and I never put my integrity on the line. This seems to have impressed them, and they not only respect me for it, but also trust me.

As I look at the people who work for me now, and their lives and desires, I think of how fortunate our Air Force troops really are. Air Force troops have a lot of benefits they may take for granted. Here's what I offer people who I hire:

- Five paid sick days (after six months of employment);
 - Five paid vacation days after one year, two weeks after two years, and three weeks after eight years. Can't get more than that;
 - Monthly bonuses if they meet all their objectives;
 - Six paid holidays per year. If they are not at work the day prior or the day after the holiday, they do not receive the holiday pay.
- Medical and dental they pay for:
- Single: \$55 per month;
 - Family: \$275 per month.

That's about all they get. Of course, the senior managers get a little more, but not much. Perhaps the thing I miss most is the 30 days paid vacation, all the holidays off, and the functions, dinners and profes

See 'Benefits' page 5

Looking to the ORI

(By Lt. Col. Barbara Stewart, 47 FTW inspector general)

83-day checklist

- Determine which Special Interest Items apply to your organization and ensure they are in compliance.
- Ensure copies of Air Force Manuals 10-100 are ordered for those that do not have a copy.
- Look over continuity folders to ensure they are pertinent, up to date and provide adequate information for someone to take over in your office, if necessary.
- Run security, safety and other checklists to ensure compliance.

Actionline

Call 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also

be printed in the *Border Eagle*. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.



Winfield W. Scott III
Col. Winfield W. Scott III
47th Flying Training Wing commander

Air Force Chief of Staff speaks out on importance of retention

By Master Sgt. Kenneth Fidler
Air Force Press News

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan says retention is what the Air Force is all about these days, and current budget proposals and people programs reflect its commitment to erasing the effects of a decade of downsizing.

"I believe it in my heart," he said during a visit here recently. "It is people who make the U.S. Air Force a wonderful, great organization and the strongest Air Force in the world. That's why we have pushed so hard for increased pay, additional bonuses and to turn around the retirement system. It's why we work on basic allowance for housing increases and why we're currently working on the medical system. These are people issues. For us, retention is the issue. All of that wonderful equipment out there is simply machinery if we don't have the best people in the world to operate it."

Since 1986, the Air Force and Department of Defense have undergone sweeping cuts in budget and people, especially after 1990 when the Berlin Wall crumbled and the Cold War ended. The Air Force alone has decreased by 40 percent, Ryan said.

In 1986, the Air Force had more than 600,000 active duty members. In 1999, that number topped out at just over 350,000. The 1986 budget was just about \$120 billion; last year it was about \$65 billion. For fiscal 2001, the proposed budget request for the Air Force is \$71.2 billion.

"This year was the first year we've had an increase in defense spending, in particular, Air Force spending, in the past 14 years," Ryan said. "We have started back up the road to what I think will be a much healthier force for the future."

For its total housing construction program, the Air Force is allocating \$224 million. This includes new construction funds totaling \$37 million to build 272 units and revitalize another 278 units.

In its recruiting and retention programs, the Air Force continues its emphasis on combating downward trends. For fiscal 2001, \$809 million is allotted for recruiting and retention, of which, \$354 million is allotted for recruiting programs, an increase of \$42 million from FY00. The money will go toward expanded re-enlistment bonuses, increased promotion rates, implementation of the expeditionary aerospace force, additional recruiters and advertising.

Looking back 10 years, Ryan said that after the Berlin Wall came down, "it was supposed to be a time when we were going to have some kind of a strategic pause. There was no pause for our folks. We continued to run an operations tempo that was very high. What we in the Air Force needed to do was acknowledge that."

For example, in the European theater of operations, U.S. Air Forces in Europe has transitioned from a fight-in-place fighter force ready for a large-scale conflict to a



Ryan

mobile and deployable mixed force that can operate simultaneously in multiple locations. In 1990, USAFE had more than 25 bases in 12 countries. Now, it has six main operating bases in four countries.

Since the end of the Cold War, the Air Force's role has expanded from tasks associated with warfighting to a mission that includes supporting humanitarian and peacekeeping operations.

The Air Force objective now is to retain people and make sure the service is equipped and staffed properly to take on the expeditionary missions Ryan expects will continue for quite some time.

In 1999, the Air Force started reorganizing into 10 aerospace expeditionary forces, which form a rotational structure designed to bring greater stability and cut at-home and deployed workloads.

This comes after the Department of Defense fought for changes such as a 4.8 percent pay raise this year, increased housing allowances to make up for out-of-pocket housing costs and reinstating the 50 percent retirement plan.

"All of that wonderful equipment out there is simply machinery if we don't have the best people in the world to operate it."

—Gen. Michael E. Ryan
Air Force Chief of Staff

"For us, retention is the issue," the general said. "We have wonderful, wonderful people in the Air

Force, and we want to keep them. The concentration of our efforts to make sure their quality of life service is the highest we can make it will allow us to retain these people and continue having great success in the future."

(Courtesy AFPN)

AFPC releases promotion lists Thursday

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- The Air Force plans to release its newest list of technical and master sergeant promotions Thursday (June 9 for those units across the international date line).

In years past, the list was released by the first Thursday in June, however this year the first Thursday falls on June 1 in the middle of a four-day work week.

"Allowing local military personnel flights and unit commanders ample time to process the lists and get their people notified

is an important step in promotion releases," officials at the Air Force Personnel Center said.

"A June 8 announcement allows for the notification time needed, especially for a dual release, while a June 1 announcement does not."

"Receiving and processing promotion test results is also of high importance," center officials said. "Waiting

until June 8 to make the announcement allows the Air Force a few more days to get additional tests in on individuals recently deployed, and enables the Air Force Personnel Center to score these members against their peers during the regular cycle instead of delaying consideration to a later date."

The list of those selected for promotion will be available on the Air Force Personnel Center home page at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil> by June 9.



Col. Winfield W. Scott III
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Public affairs officer
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"Excellence – not our goal, but our standard."

– 47 FTW motto

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Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, Ext. 5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.** Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be E-mailed to: michael.hammond@laughlin.af.mil or reginal.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil

The XLer

Hometown: Provo, Utah.
Family: Wife, Nicole; daughter, Jordan, 2 years.
Time at Laughlin: 1 year.
Time in service: 6 years.
Why did you join the Air Force family? A lifelong desire to become a combat pilot.
Name one way to improve life at Laughlin: Repave the roads in base housing.
Long-term goals: Return to the F-15 and eventually fly the F-22.
Greatest accomplishment: My daughter.
Hobbies: Mountain biking and photography.
If you could spend one hour with any person in history, who would it be and why? My grandfather. He was my hero. I miss having him around.



Capt. Jason Forest
47th Flying Training Wing

Where are they now?

Name: Maj. Jim Hampshire.

Class/date of graduation from Laughlin: July, 1987; Class 87-06.

Aircraft you now fly and base you are stationed at: C-17, Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.

Mission of your current aircraft?

Strategic and tactical airlifts and airdrops.

What do you like most about your

current aircraft? One day I am doing long overseas missions to any number of foreign countries and the next day I am flying a low-level flight through the mountains.

What do you dislike most about your current aircraft? During contingen-

cies, I tend to be away for longer periods of time and that puts more pressure on my family back home.

What was the most important thing you learned from your time at Laughlin, besides learning how to fly? I made some of the best

friends of my life at Laughlin.

What is your most memorable experience from Laughlin? I am very proud that I

graduated every student I taught.

What advice would you give SUPT students at Laughlin? If things are getting stressful, take a moment on your next flight to look around and realize that you are doing what a lot of people only dream about.



‘T-6,’ from page 1

arrival ceremony here.

“Our country’s security is dependent upon the competence and confidence of its warriors,” said the admiral. “The T-6A training system is destined to enhance both ... I know, because I have flown it. I only wish I could begin my career all over again and have the opportunity to learn to fly in such a superb platform.”

The Navy T-6As will be stationed at Naval Air Station Whiting Field and Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., and Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas.

According to training officials, the Air Force will receive 372 aircraft and the Navy will get 339 new trainers. An additional 29 T-6s will be used in the joint Air Force and Navy undergraduate navigator training program. Aircraft production at Raytheon is expected to last through 2014.

T-6 program officials said the new trainer brings capabilities beyond those of the T-37 and T-34. It is also quieter and more fuel efficient. The T-6A can fly at speeds in excess of 270 knots true air speed. Its certified ceiling is 31,000 feet, and it has a range of more than 900 nautical miles.

Because of its high thrust-to-weight ratio, the aircraft can perform an initial climb of 3,300 feet per minute and can reach 18,000 feet in less than six minutes. Its turbo-prop engine delivers 1,100 horsepower. It is fully aerobatic and has an anti-gravity system.

Some other advantages of the T-6A over the T-37 are quicker handling and faster maintenance turnaround. The new trainer has an expected service life of approximately 16,000 flying hours.

The T-6A Texan II is named after the classic T-6 Texan trainer used by the Navy and Air Force in the 1940s and 1950s.

‘Benefits’ from page 2

sional organizations that united people.

We just don’t have that in the civilian world. My folks punch the clock every day, and they work hard. They deserve better, but unfortunately, that’s just the way it is. I dare not tell them how good I had it in the Air Force. They probably wouldn’t believe me anyway.

The average airman in

today’s Air Force is taken care of very well. The Air Force is still a great career for people who want to become successful. I could go on and on, but I have to tell you that if I had to do it all over, I’d join the Air Force again – today.

Please pass on to the troops that one retired chief, now a senior executive in a large organization, would tell them, “Stay in the Air Force! Make the best of it and enjoy your career. It’s the best deal going!”

'Bonds,' from page 1

investments is the traditional value of thrift, as epitomized by the passbook savings account.

"And why not?" said Ortman. "Who would want to earn a mere 2 percent on money when you can earn 20 or 30 percent in individual stocks or mutual funds?"

It turns out, however, that tens of millions of passbook accounts are still active and that the people investing in them have little or no savings at all, much less high-flying investments, explained the lieutenant. "Many of these people are up to their eyeballs in debt, especially credit card debt built up as a substitute for paying cash with savings that don't exist," he said. Additionally, home equity loans have become something of a life-saver for cash-poor homeowners, but at the cost of reducing equity.

So the time may be right to go back to the basics, Ortman said. "Think less about investing that may or may not be possible for the average family and more about building up a savings reserve to meet today's obligations. Add to the long-term investments for education and retirement necessary in today's world."

Two types of savings bonds are now available to help consumers, explained Ortman.

The inflation-indexed Series I is sold at face value and earns a fixed rate, currently 3.6 percent, plus inflation every six months — putting the current total yield at 7.49 percent and making money saved invulnerable to inflation.

The traditional Series EE is sold at half of face value and earns interest at 90 percent of the

average return on 5-year U.S. Department of the Treasury securities, with rates adjusted semi-annually to track market changes. The rate is currently 5.73 percent.

Both types of savings bonds come in denominations ranging from \$50 to \$10,000 and are tax advantaged with interest exempt from state or local taxes, while federal tax can be deferred until they are cashed or reach final

maturity. Both are also backed by the full faith and credit of the United States.

Best of all, added Ortman, savings bonds can be redeemed easily at most financial institutions any time and for any reason after they've been held for six months.

"You can't do that with a 401(k), and likely wouldn't want to do it with stocks," said Ortman.

In short, savings bonds cur-

rently earn better returns than passbook or money market accounts and short-term CDs, Ortman said. Savings bonds are as flexible as passbook accounts, and are tax advantaged and safe. Series I bonds even protect people from inflation. They are also a great way to fill the gap between credit and high-performing investments.

For those who are interested

in savings bonds, there are many ways to buy them. By far, the easiest way is to buy them through payroll allotments, said Ortman. People interested in savings bonds can contact their squadron representative or Ortman at 5343. Members can also visit the savings bonds Web site at www.savingsbonds.gov.



Saving for the future
can be tough,
or it can be automatic.
Call 2nd Lt. Ortman
x5304 for more info.



courtesy photo

Scholarship winner

Col. Winfield W. "Skip" Scott III, 47th Flying Training Wing commander, presents Tabitha Benseal, wife of Staff Sgt. Dennis Benseal of the 47th Aeromedical Dental Squadron, with a \$900 scholarship grant from the Non-commissioned Officers Association.

Laughlin earns national recognition

National Arbor Day Foundation names base Tree City USA for sixth time

Laughlin celebrated Arbor Day 2000 May 22. As part of the event, a tree planting ceremony was held at the park located at 2090 Cannon Street.

Mark Peterson, from the Texas Forest Service, was the guest speaker and Col. John Betts, 47th Support Group commander, read the Arbor Day proclamation.

Arbor Day is part of the base's commitment to the environment – a fact shown by Laughlin being nationally recognized as a Tree City USA for the sixth consecutive year. Communities receive Tree City USA designation upon recommendation by state foresters, who co-sponsor the program along with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service. To become a Tree City USA, the base must have a tree ordinance, a legal tree governing body,

a comprehensive urban forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance.

In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees. This holiday, now called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska.

Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and world. Trees are an important resource for many reasons, said Arbor Day officials. Trees reduce the erosion of top soil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife.

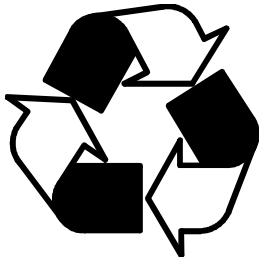
Additionally, trees are a renewable resource – providing paper, wood for homes, fuel for fires

and countless other wood products.

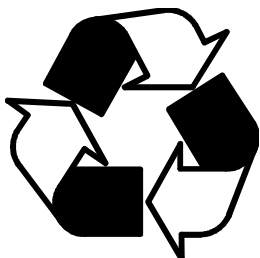
"As we begin the new century, it is especially appropriate to recognize the values of trees in our communities," said John Rosenow, President of the National Arbor Day Foundation. "The trees we plant and care for today will cool and beautify our cities, increase property values, help clean the air and water and conserve energy for years to come."

An effective community forestry program is an ongoing process of renewal and improvement – a program of tree planting and care that continues through the years, Rosenow added.

"The Tree City USA award is an excellent indication that there is a solid foundation for that process of improvement," he said.



**Don't
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this
newspaper**



Question of the week **What are your summer plans?**



“Go to the swimming pool and play video games.”

Justin Underwood

Family member



“Play with my grandpa. We play with my toys together.”

Alex Rodriguez

Family member



“I’m going to New York City for my birthday.”

Chloe Grossoehmig

Family member



“We are moving to Buffalo, N.Y.”

Summer Reimer

Family member

Base units offer chance to ...

‘Bring Your Child to Work’

Base officials encourage parents to bring their children to work Thursday as part of a Laughlin observance combining Bring Your Daughter to Work Day, which is observed in April, and Bring Your

Son to Work Day, which is observed in June.

The two events are combined and observed on one day at Laughlin so children don’t miss a day of school, explained Sabrina

Pena, base project officer. The day is known here as Bring Your Child to Work Day.

The primary purpose of Bring Your Child to Work Day “is so they can see what mom and dad actu-

ally do at work on a daily basis,” explained Pena. “Most children know their parents leave the house for work, but they don’t know what they actually do while they’re there.”

Activities and hours for children to see their parents on the job are up to individual commanders and supervisors.

“Work centers must decide if it is safe and appropriate for the children to be in the work place,” said Pena, adding that safety and security are the two main factors supervisors must consider before approving the observance in their work center.

For those work centers that can’t have children there all day, supervisors can designate an hour or two for children to visit.

Pena, the family life educator at the family support center, points out that parents need to take an active role in this observation.

“Bringing a child to work allows parents to spend some quality time with their child,” she said. “Also, they get a chance to show them what work is all about, how important their work is and how they contribute to Laughlin’s mission.”

For more information about your squadron’s Bring Your Child to Work Day events, contact your supervisor or unit project officer.



**Double
your
intake.**

If you aren’t looking at the United States Air Force Online News Wednesday, you aren’t getting all of the news.

After you read this paper, check out your other newspaper at:
<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>

Enlisted corps inducts Newton as honorary chief

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) – Air Education and Training Command chief master sergeants honored Gen. Lloyd “Fig” Newton, AETC commander, by swearing him in as an honorary chief master sergeant during a recent ceremony here.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Jim Finch and the Randolph Chiefs group presented Newton with chief master sergeant stripes and an elaborate Native American headdress honoring his loyalty to enlisted people.

Newton, who retires Aug. 1 after 34 years in the Air Force, has been known for championing quality of life and airmen issues since taking the helm of the “First Command” in the spring of 1997. “Without a doubt, General Newton respects what the enlisted member does for this command,” said AETC Command Chief Master Sgt. Bill Milligan. “Even more importantly, he admires what the enlisted corps does on a daily basis to make our Air Force the best trained military in the world.”

With less than a month left before his retirement ceremony,

Newton summed up the honor as simply “awesome.”

“During my career I have been fortunate enough to receive many awards and honors,” said Newton. “However, none of them match the honor of receiving the Order of the Sword and being inducted as an honorary chief.”

Last year, the enlisted corps inducted Newton into the AETC Order of the Sword – an ancient ceremony conducted by NCOs to honor their greatest officer-warriors and civilian equals who made

significant contributions to the enlisted corps.

“The prestige of the history and meaning of these events drive a sense of pride that is second to none,” said Newton. “Elouise and I offer our deepest gratitude and sincere thanks to all of the enlisted men and women of Air Education and Training Command and the U.S. Air Force for this high honor. We have served our Air Force and the nation as a team, and therefore, both of us will treasure this moment as one of the greatest hon-

ors in my career.”

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Jim Finch (left) and Chief Master Sergeant Bill Milligan (right), AETC command chief, present Gen. Lloyd W. “Fig” Newton a memento of his induction as an honorary chief master sergeant. Finch and the Randolph Chiefs group presented Newton with chief master sergeant stripes and an elaborate Native American headdress honoring his loyalty to enlisted people.



courtesy photo



Photo by Master Sgt. Tom Hankus

Running the show

Airman 1st Class Deborah McCracken (right), 84th Flying Training Squadron, and Tech Sgt. William Jaworski (left), 47th Mission Support Squadron, captured first and second place in the May 25 Fitness Month 5k Run/Walk. McCracken finished with a time of 18-minutes, 37-seconds and Jaworski finished at 18:58. In recognition of their accomplishments, McCracken was presented with a stereo head set and Jaworski received a new gym bag and water bottle from fitness specialist Senior Airman Jennifer Nalls of the XL Fitness Center. Thirteen runners competed in the event.

Trap and skeet standings

	WEEK # 5			WEEK # 6		
TEAM	SCORE	TOTAL	PLACE	SCORE	TOTAL	PLACE
47 ADS #1	112	520	1	101	621	1
87 FTS	102.5	507	2	106	613	2
SERVICES	110.5	500.5	3	112	612.5	3
47 ADS #2	106	480	4	98.5	578.5	4
84 FTS	102	478	5	69	547	5
47 CES	25.5	301.5	6	25.5	327	6

The XL Fitness Center holds a “Summertime Blues” stationary bike race June 10. Registration for the event is scheduled for 11 a.m. with the race beginning at 11:30 a.m. For more information, call Staff Sgt. John Fastinger at 5251.

Optometry clinic closure

The base optometry clinic is currently closed for appointments. The clinic will open to active duty members from June 12-16 when a doctor is at Laughlin.

For more information, call Senior Airman Dee Dee Shafer at 6429.

Blood drive

Laughlin sponsors a blood drive for South Texas Blood and Tissue Center today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Fiesta Center. There is a tremendous blood shortage in south Texas and the shortage is expected to increase over the summer. People who are 17, weigh at least 110 pounds and are in good general health may donate blood. All donors will receive a free cholesterol screening and a mini-physical consisting of blood pressure, iron level, pulse and temperature check.

Call 298-5620 to schedule a donation time. Scheduling is not mandatory, but it will cut down on your wait time.

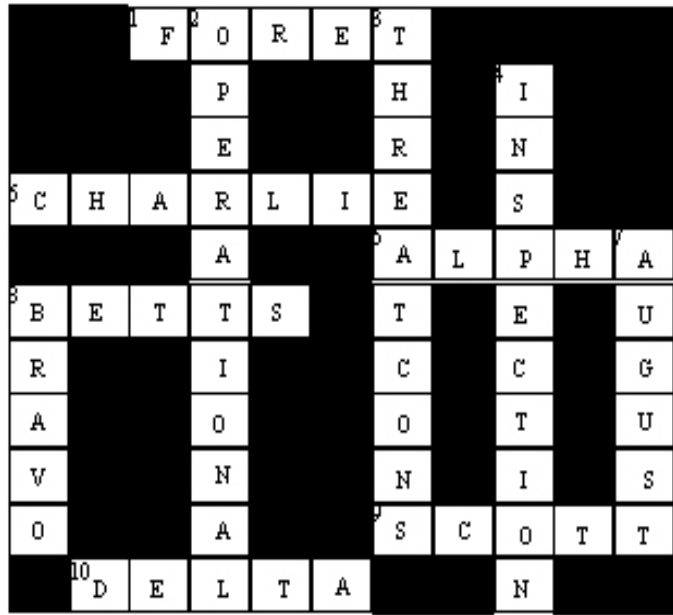
Precious metals recovery

The Precious Metals Recovery Program promotes the economic recovery of precious metals from excess and surplus items bearing precious metals. The recovered precious metals play an important part in saving money for the taxpayer and the government and in conserving natural resources.

Points of contact for the PMRP are Claudio Sotelo Sr. (primary) at 5148 and Sherri Vick (alternate) at 5096.

IG crossword puzzle

(Answers from past week)



ACROSS

1. Last name of the 47 FTW vice commander
5. Declared when some form of terrorist activity is imminent
6. Declared as a general warning of terrorist activity
8. Last name of the 47 SPTG commander
9. Last name of the 47 FTW commander
10. Declared as a localized warning when an attack has occurred.

DOWN

2. _____ Readiness Inspection (ORI)
3. JCS approved program standardizing Services recommendations of and response to terrorist threats to U.S. personnel and facilities
4. We're having one here in 90 days.
7. Month of our ORI.
8. Declared when an increased and more predictable threat of terrorist activity is present

Base Reports of Survey program managers

Col. Winfield W. Scott III has appointed Claudio Sotelo Sr. and Kathleen Donnett as Base Reports of Survey monitors.

For more information, call
5148.

Yard of the month winners

Officer: Capt. and Mrs. Scott
E. Lavigne, 86th Flying Training
Squadron.

Enlisted: Master Sgt. and Mrs. Timothy P. Griffin, 47th Communications Squadron.

Mobile home: Staff Sgt. and Mrs. Ernest T. Bice, 47th Medical Group.

Tobacco cessation

The Health and Wellness Center offers tobacco cessation classes Tuesday. The one-hour classes are held at 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. in the HAWC conference room.

For more information, call
Tech. Sgt. Ray Fernandez at 6463
or 6464.

Thrift savings plan

The open season when federal and postal employees may join the tax-deferred thrift savings plan, or alter contribution amounts and fund choices, is now underway.

The season runs through July

31. Employees wishing to start or change future contributions can call the Air Force Personnel Center at 1-800-977-2378.

Three funds are available: the common stock C fund, the bond F fund and the government securities G fund. Employees under the older retirement system may contribute up to 5 percent of their salary, while those under the newer system may invest up to 10 percent of their salary with the government matching up to an amount equal to 5 percent.

Employees who already have money in TSP should check the distribution of their dollars often since the strong stock market performance of the last two years may have thrown the accounts of many thrift savings investors out of balance. This open season is a good time to consider transferring money among the three TSP funds and to restore the desired allocations.

For more information, call Patty Flemming at 5127
or check out the TSP Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov>.

NCOA/PMEGA meeting

The Laughlin Non-commissioned Officers Association and Professional Military Education Graduates



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Look here!

Staff Sgt. Dana Bice, 47th Medical Group, educates her son Christian Bice on the various types of flowers in front of her mobile home. Bice and her husband, Staff Sgt. Ernest Bice, 47 MDG, were Yard of the Month winners for May.

Association holds elections for vice-chairman and secretary today at 11 a.m. in the Enlisted Heritage/Airman Leadership School. This meeting is open to all active duty, Reserve, Guard and retired personnel.

For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Chris Clauser at 5406.

Car wash

The Black Heritage Committee sponsors a car wash Saturday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in front of the base exchange. Proceeds from the car wash go toward the Black Heritage Committee annual scholarship fund.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Mark Floyd at 4864.

Rodeo team seeks interest

Members of the Ride for the Brand Rodeo Team seek those interested in being contestants or volunteers in an upcoming rodeo. The rodeo is scheduled for Labor Day weekend at the Val Verde County fairgrounds.

For more information, call Al Hyatt at 298-0758.